

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0157

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PK

SUBJECT: GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

1. LAHORE PAK TIMES SEPTEMBER 11 REPORTED PUNJAB CHIEF MIN RAMAY WAS LEAVING FOR RAWALPINDI "TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE CONVENED BY PRIMIN BHUTTO ON THURSDAY" AND WOULD RETURN LAHORE FRIDAY. ALSO REPORTED SEPARATELY THAT PUNJAB GOVERNOR QURESHI ARRIVED ISLAMABAD SEPTEMBER 10 FOR STAY OF "DAY OR TWO" (REASON UNSTATED).

2. SAME EDITION PAK TIMES ALSO CARRIED PPI STORY DATE-LINED KARACHI SEPTEMBER 10 REPORTING REMARKS BY BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR AHMED YAR ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS BEFORE FLYING TO ISLAMABAD. THIS STORHZ, HOWEVER, QUOTES GOVERNOR TO EFFECT "HE HAD NO OFFICIAL INTIMATION OF A HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN RAWALPINDI UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIMIN TO DISCUSS BALUCHISTAN PROBLEM." HE HAD "ONLY SEEN PRESS REPORTS IN THIS REGARD" AND HIS VISIT TO RAWALPINDI WAS "PURELY OF A PRIVATE NATURE." (KARACHI ENGLISH PAPERS SEPTEMBER 11 REPORTED ALLEGATION ABOUT "PRIVATE NATURE" OF VISIT AND FACT THAT GOVERNOR EXPECTED "CALL ON" PRIMIN BHUTTO DURING STAY IN ISLAMABAD.)

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3. IN REPORTING PRESS CONFERENCE BY GOVERNOR QURESHI IN MULTAN SEPTEMBER 10, MOSTLY RELATING TO PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, LAHORE'S NAWA-I-WAQT SEPTEMBER 11 QUOTED GOVERNOR AS STATING HE WAS LEAVING MULTAN DIRECTLY FOR ISLAMABAD WHERE "PRIMIN HAD ORDERED HIM TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY."

4. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED REPORT IN SEPTEMBER 10 ISSUE OF LOCAL PPP URDU PAPER MUSAWAT (FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ISLAMABAD) THAT PRIMIN WOULD PRESIDE OVER GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 11 (SIC.) EXPECTED TO BE ATTENDED BY ALL GOVERNORS AND CHIEF MINISTERS. PAPER REPORTED MEETING WOULD CONSIDER SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS INCLUDING LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION TO BE FRAMED IN CONNECTION WITH SEPTEMBER 7 DECISIONS RE AHMADIYAS, "BALUCHISTAN AND ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS", AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN GOVERNMENTS " OF ALL PROVINCES" AND IN FEDERAL CABINET.

5. COMMENT: APPEARS THAT HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CALLED ON SHORT NOTICE WITH SOME PARTICIPANTS GETTING SIGNALS MIXED ABOUT REVEALING FACT. SINCE MUSAWAT HAS INSIDE LINE ON PARTY AND OFFICIAL MATTERS, AND IS ONLY LOCAL PAPER TO REPORT CONFERENCE IN ANY DETAIL, BELIEVE IT MAY HAVE AUTHENTIC SCOOP ON SIGNIFICANT MEETING. ADDITIONALLY, CONTEXT OF NAWA-I-WAQT REPORT OF GOVERNOR'S REMARKS IN MULTAN SUGGESTS THAT CONFERENCE MAY ALSO CONSIDER FUTURE AGRICULTURAL POLICY, ESPECIALLY INCREASE IN WHEAT PROCUREMENT PRICE WHICH GOVERNOR SAID PUNJAB GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY APPROVED BUT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WISHES COORDINATE WITH OTHER PROVINCES.

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